I. AMENDMENTS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions, listings and amendments to the claims:

1. (Canceled)

2. (Currently Amended) A method for preparing substantially homogenous, [[and]] biologically functional and activated IKK protein complex comprising transforming a yeast with an IKK subunit gamma [[γ]] (γ) gene and an IKK subunit alpha (α) gene [[and/or]] and an IKK subunit beta (β) gene and growing said yeast and separating said IKK protein complex from said yeast thereby preparing substantially homogenous, [[and]] biologically functional and activated IKK protein complex.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2 or 42, wherein one or more of said IKK subunit [[γ]] (γ) gene, or IKK subunit [[α]] (α) gene or IKK subunit [[β]] (β) gene further comprises a sequence encoding a tag.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5, wherein said tag is selected from the group consisting of myc, HA, FLAG and 6his.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2 or 42, wherein one or more of said IKK subunit (γ) gene, or IKK subunit (α) gene or IKK subunit (β) ~~said IKK subunit~~ gene is linked to an inducible promoter or a constitutive promoter.

Claims 8 –16. (Canceled).

17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2 or 42, wherein said yeast is *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*.

18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[1]] 2 or 42, wherein one or more of said IKK subunit (γ) gene, or IKK subunit (α) gene or IKK subunit (β) ~~said IKK subunit~~ gene is a mammalian IKK gene.

19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 18, wherein one or more of said mammalian IKK subunit (γ) gene, or mammalian IKK subunit (α) gene or mammalian IKK subunit (β) ~~said mammalian IKK subunit~~ gene is a human ~~IKK subunit~~ gene.

20. (Canceled)

21. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2 or 42, wherein said yeast is grown in selective liquid media.

22. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2 or 42, wherein one or more of said IKK subunit (γ) gene, or IKK subunit (α) gene or IKK subunit (β) ~~said IKK subunit~~ gene encodes a wild-type IKK subunit protein.

23. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2 or 42, wherein one or more of said IKK subunit (γ) gene, or IKK subunit (α) gene or IKK subunit (β) ~~said IKK subunit~~ gene encodes a mutated IKK subunit protein.

Claims 24 – 41. (Canceled)

42. (New) A method for preparing substantially homogenous, biologically functional and activated IKK protein complex comprising transforming a yeast with an IKK subunit gamma (γ) gene and an IKK subunit alpha (α) gene and an IKK subunit beta (β) gene and growing said yeast and separating said IKK protein complex from said yeast, wherein an IKK subunit (γ) protein encoded by said IKK subunit gamma (γ) gene solely regulates activation of said IKK protein complex thereby preparing substantially homogenous, biologically functional and activated IKK protein complex.